



A Front-Row Seat to Medical Breakthroughs

The Research Innovation Council, at St. Michael's Hospital, is a group of visionary philanthropists who recognize the value and potential of research to improve healthcare and who aim to advance the next major medical breakthroughs. When you join RIC, you gain exclusive access to life-changing discoveries at St. Mike's. It's a donor experience like no other.

ABOUT RIC

The Research Innovation Council was founded in 2017 by Co-Chairs **Gwen Harvey** and **Melissa Martin**, and the late **John Hunkin**.

Inspired by the momentum of Angels Den, RIC brings together donors passionate about advancing groundbreaking research. It offers a front-row seat to the bold ideas emerging from St. Michael's Hospital—connecting supporters directly with leading scientists and the discoveries shaping the future of healthcare.

Each year, RIC accelerates innovation by awarding three research prizes: a \$150,000 main award and two \$10,000 runner-up prizes, helping to turn promising ideas into real-world impact.

Our goal is to fund high-impact research by growing RIC membership.



RIC Co-Chairs Gwen Harvey (l) and Melissa Martin (r)

St. Michael's is a global research powerhouse

We unite world-class research with specialized clinical care to tackle some of the most complex medical challenges:

2

integrated research institutes

1,440

researchers, scientists, trainees, and staff

2/3

of researchers are clinician-scientists

63

academic chairs and professorships

HOW RIC WORKS

Each year, you and other members will select one scientist to receive RIC funding for their research project. The selection process follows a competition format similar to that of Angels Den (see below). Additionally, you will visit the Hospital's labs to observe research as it progresses. You will be immersed in the discovery process and develop a personal connection to scientific breakthroughs.

This is not just about philanthropic contributions. It is about sharing your ideas, skills, and expertise with St. Mike's research leadership. Most importantly, this is your chance to help address some of our toughest and most urgent health challenges with an investment of **\$10,000 annually for five years (\$50,000)**.

RIC EVENTS

RIC holds four main cultivation events for members each year:

- **Behind the Scenes Lab Tour** showcases leaders from the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute and the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science
- **Investment Meeting and Dinner** gives RIC members a chance to award a researcher with funds to support their work
- **Investment Update Meeting** allows RIC members to hear from the researcher who was awarded funding at the Investment Meeting
- **Angels Den**, Canada's biggest medical research competition, brings RIC members face-to-face with St. Mike's top scientists as they pitch breakthrough ideas for critical funding.

RIC Projects

RIC has funded nine game-changing research projects since its inception:

2026

Dr. Daniel Werb:
Breaking the Cycle: Novel therapy aims to block opioid withdrawal at its source

2025

Dr. Andras Kapus:
A New Pharmacological Approach to Fight Organ Fibrosis

2024

Dr. Akash Goel:
Exploring Ecstasy Use to Treat Chronic Pain

2023

Dr. Samir Gupta:
Scaling Electronic Asthma Management Systems for Pharmacies

2022

Dr. Katie Dunlop:
Navigating Treatment for Depression and Suicide

2021

Dr. David Gomez:
Evaluating Elective Surgery Wait Times during COVID-19

2020

Dr. Sharmistha Mishra:
Using Population Data to Prevent COVID-19 Spread

2019

Dr. Sakina Rizvi:
Investigating the Biological Markers of the "Suicidal Brain"

2018

Dr. Gaspard Montandon:
Identifying New Therapies to Prevent Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression

CONTACT US

Want to go behind the scenes of world-class research and make medical ingenuity possible?

For details, contact Laura Yardeni, Officer, Major Gifts Campaigns

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